

## **Why is the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Ordinance needed?**

- To help protect the drinking water supply and water quality of Northwest Arkansas from pathogens and increased nutrients entering ground and surface waters
- To help protect the over 3000 estimated wells ( Arkansas Dept. of Natural Resources) and 19 active community wells in Benton County from pathogens and other contaminants especially in our karst region
- To help ensure cheap, high quality water needed for area industries such as Tyson and family farms in the County.
- To help protect water quality for future economic growth as the wells throughout the County continue to age and have not been maintained properly
- To help continue sales tax money for future County projects from businesses and spending related to recreation on clean Benton County water bodies which would be endangered by algae blooms experienced in neighboring Table Rock Lake and Grand Lake.
- To help protect property values
- To have full disclosure on transfers of property so all parties know the location and functionality of the onsite wastewater treatment system in order to prevent future legal problems. Repair costs are left in negotiation between current title holders and future title holders. Any failing system (as defined in the Ordinance) requiring repair falls under requirements already in place.
- To create a standardization in inspections by qualified inspectors certified by the Benton County Health Unit